

Summer Pulse '04

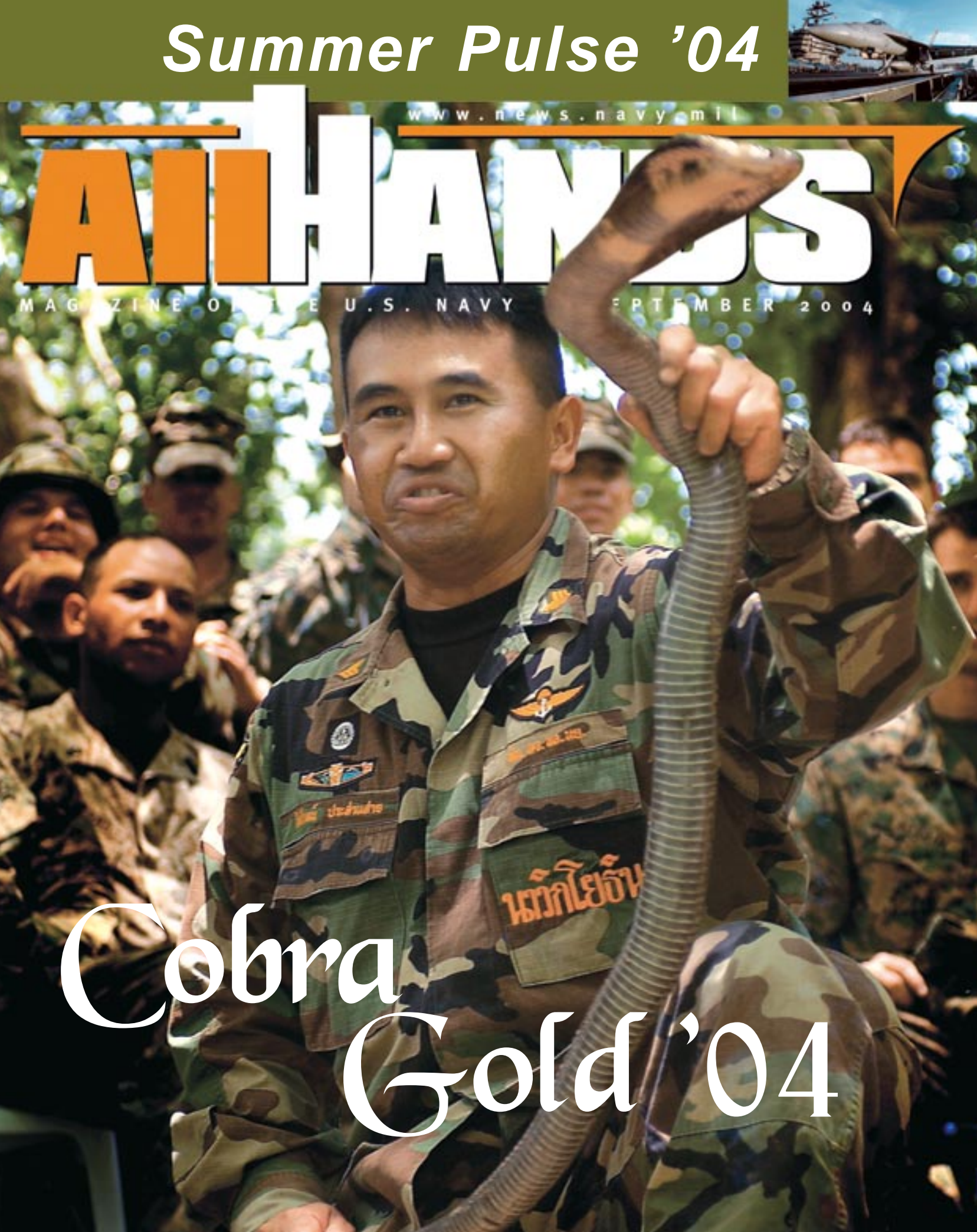


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AIH HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY SEPTEMBER 2004

Cobra
Gold '04





[On the Front Cover]

PO1 “Bum” Priroj, a member of 23rd BN, Grand Combat Element, Royal Thai Marine Reconnaissance demonstrates snake handling techniques for a jungle survival training class during *Cobra Gold '04*.

Photo by PH3 Todd Frantom

[Next Month]

All Hands celebrates the Navy’s 229th Birthday with our “Any Day in the Navy” issue. After looking at more than 7,000 photos, we selected the photos that best represent the U.S. Navy.

What started as a small exercise between the U.S. and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) 23 years ago has become one of the largest exercises involving U.S. forces in the Pacific Command. More than 18,000 troops from five countries participated in this year’s *Cobra Gold '04*.

Photo by PH3 Todd Frantom

[Number 1049]

ALL HANDS

September

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The fleet tested the Navy’s new operational construct of his Fleet Response Plan (FRP) with *Summer Pulse '04* when seven aircraft carrier strike groups (CSGs) simultaneous deployed. This demonstrated the Navy’s ability to provide credible combat power across the globe by operating in five theaters with other U.S., allied and coalition military forces.

Photo by PHAN Paul Lavery



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Photo by PH3 Todd Frantom

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In Thailand, many U.S. Sailors took time off from the grueling training schedule to volunteer their time—to make a difference. Whether stopping by to donate toys and visit under-privileged children or working vigorously in the scorching heat to repair a local school, these Sailors were ambassadors for America.

32 **Building Paradise**

Slonj (Sla-loon), Croatia, is almost paradise. Miles away from the nearest factory, its crisp, clean air carries the smells any farm-land should. Sparkling clear water flows just as gently through their hillsides. Only it doesn’t flow into anyone’s house ... yet. So Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, along with military engineers from Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Turkey and Croatia, teamed up to help bring the farmers of Slonj and 15 other villages what most Americans consider an afterthought—running water.

Photo by J011(SW/SCW) James Pinsky





An SH-60 *Seahawk* shuttles between the Military Sealift Command ammunition ship USNS *Mt. Baker* (T-AE 34) and USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) during a vertical replenishment.

Photo-illustration by PH3 Christopher B. Stoltz

The "Jam Band" performs on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), during an underway replenishment with the Military Sealift Command oiler USNS *Laramie* (T-AO 203). This image uses 12 photos to form the panoramic view.

Photo-illustration by PH2 John L. Beeman





An amphibious assault vehicle assigned to the 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion departs the well deck aboard *Wasp*-class amphibious assault ship USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6). *Bonhomme Richard* is at sea conducting Amphibious Specialty Training while undergoing a Tailored Ship's Training Assessment, in preparation for her upcoming deployment.

Photo by PH3 Jennifer Rivera

Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott

This question is from a recent All Hands Call at Naval Base Kitsap, Wash.:

Q: Why is there only a 12-semester hour cap on Tuition Assistance?

A: It's important that Sailors fully understand the reasoning behind the 12-semester hour cap, and why we've structured the Tuition Assistance (TA) program the way we have.

When DOD authorized all of the armed services 100 percent TA, it was an authorization, not an appropriation. What this meant was the Navy was authorized to offer 100 percent TA, but was not appropriated the funding. In addition, we knew that 100 percent TA would increase the number of Sailors wanting to take advantage of the benefit.

In fact, participation has risen more than 31 percent since FY02, and our obligated costs have gone from \$41 million, to nearly \$74 million by the end of this year. That 31 percent increase means that more than 10,700 of your shipmates are taking advantage of off-duty education today who weren't previously. I think that is the biggest success of this policy decision!

We also took a look at historic TA usage rates, and 95 percent of Sailors never reached the previous ceiling limits. Seventy-five percent of Sailors are taking fewer than 12-semester hours of courses per year.

Therefore, to make sure that we could equitably

offer 100 percent TA to every Sailor who requests it, the Navy set a cap of 12-semester hours per fiscal year, with a maximum of \$250 dollars per semester hour. The reason for that decision was to be as fair as possible to all Sailors in all geographic locations.


For example, a Sailor who enrolls in a college in one state which offers classes for \$150 a semester, would be able to take many more classes using TA

than a Sailor enrolled in a college in another region charging \$250 a semester. The 12-semester hour cap was put in place, to ensure that you and all of your shipmates will have access to TA funds when you need them, throughout the entire year.

There are also many other financial options available to you, such as scholarships, Pell grants and the Montgomery GI Tuition Assistance Top Up program. For those who elected to take the GI Bill and have more than two years of service, you

can start using your GI Bill immediately to cover the costs of education above the 12-semester hour cap limit.

Another program designed to help Sailors continue their college education while aboard ships is the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE). Accredited colleges and universities provide all NCPACE college courses, and both undergraduate and graduate level courses are available. NCPACE courses are funded 100 percent by the Navy, with the individual Sailor only paying for books.

To learn more about your 100 percent TA benefits and other education opportunities, contact your local Navy College Office or visit them on the Web at www.navycollege.navy.mil. 

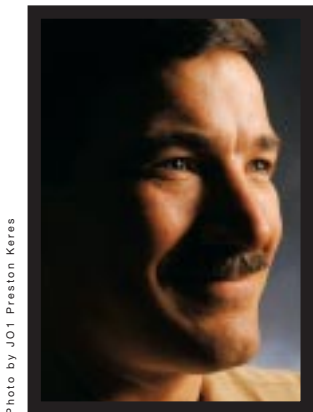


Photo by J01 Preston Keres

Speaking with Sailors is a monthly column initiated by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy as a way of reaching out to the men and women of the fleet, whether they are stationed just down the road or halfway around the world.

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I recently had the experience of watching a young man go through the Great Lakes Naval Station, Recruit Training Command "boot camp," and I had the honor of attending his graduation.

The whole experience, from the day he said good-bye until the day I watched him graduate, was quite an education. I was not aware of all that takes place during this training and of the remarkable changes in young men and women as they are molded into the exceptional Sailors who make up the United States Navy.

I was also surprised at how much the families sacrifice and how important family support can be to the Sailor as he or she serves this country. There is a certain quality that seems to be born in these young men and women that is shaped and defined

by their training. The families of these Sailors have usually helped to instill the confidence and courage that is necessary to be a Sailor, and to commit to a job and a lifestyle that can be very difficult.

The families' continued support of their Sailor during his or her service helps the Sailor to be his very best. After listening to a recruit recite "The Sailor's Creed," I decided to write a creed for the families of these Sailors so that families know their sacrifices are recognized.

With the help of a Sailor, "The Sailor's Creed," was rewritten to this final version of "The Sailors' Family's Creed" as a way to honor these Sailors' families.

Mail Call

Letters to the *All Hands* Editor

The Sailor's Family's Creed

We are the family of a United States Sailor. We will support him/her as he defends our country and carries out the orders of those appointed over him/her. Our lives represent the freedom that has been won by those Sailors who have gone before him/her, and we are committed to using that freedom wisely. We proudly encourage him/her as he serves our country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment. We are committed to helping him/her and his/her shipmates to do their very best.

Written by Julie Clark and
J01 James R. Stilipec—2004

To the families who support the Sailors of this Navy, thank you for raising these men and women to understand service and responsibility. When they came to you and told you they wanted to join the Navy, thank you for encouraging them. Thank you for your quiet support and your sacrificing in silence. Know that it is appreciated. May God bless you as you support your Sailor and our Navy, and help to make it the best navy in the world.

Julie Clark
Skowhegan, Maine

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► An F/A-18E *Super Hornet* assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 115 launches from one of four steam-powered catapults aboard USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

Photo by PH3 Mark Rebilas



◀ **Safety Officer**, CDR David Onstott keeps a watchful eye on the flight deck aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) during flight operations while participating in *Summer Pulse '04*.

Photo by PHAN Craig Spiering

Surging Ahead

Summer Pulse '04

The Navy's New Fleet Response Plan



◀ **The guided-missile** cruiser USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64) steams behind USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) while AN William J. Jones handles an AFFF hose during an aircraft fire drill on the flight deck.

Photo by PHAN Joshua Helgeson

▼ **The aircraft carrier** USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) receives fuel from the fast combat support ship USS *Seattle* (AOE 3) during an underway replenishment, while on *Summer Pulse '04*.

Photo by PH2 Michael Sandburg



◀ **AW2 Aaron Bonner** monitors the flight progress of an SH-60 *Seahawk* while USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) transits the Strait of Gibraltar.

Photo by PH3 Joan Kretschmer

The fleet tested the Navy's new operational construct of his Fleet Response Plan (FRP) with *Summer Pulse '04*, which kicked off in June and concluded in August.

The exercise saw the simultaneous deployment of seven aircraft carrier strike groups (CSGs) to demonstrate the ability of the Navy to provide credible combat power across the globe by operating in five theaters with other U.S., allied and coalition military forces.

"*Summer Pulse '04* is a demonstration of the ability of the U.S. Navy to conduct global surge operations in the new FRP operational construct," said ADM William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. "It will signal to friends and potential adversaries that substantial sea-based combat power can respond on short notice."

FRP is about new ways of operating, training, manning and maintaining the fleet, that result in increased force readiness and the ability to provide significant combat power to the President in response to a national emergency or crisis.

The Navy exercised the full range of skills involved in simultaneously deploying and employing carrier strike groups around the



world. *Summer Pulse '04* included scheduled deployments, surge operations, joint and international exercises, and other advanced training and port visits.

"*Summer Pulse '04* and the FRP are not about how often and how long we can deploy," said RADM J.D. Kelly, commander,

Carrier Strike Group 5 embarked onboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

"They are about being able to answer the nation's call in force—six CSGs in 30 days and two more within three months—by providing credible combat power where and when it's needed. *Summer Pulse* is the proof

of our readiness."

Summer Pulse '04 also exercised the logistics and shore infrastructure necessary to execute a large-scale surge operation, stressed the operational concepts in the Navy's Sea Power 21 strategy and improved Navy interoperability with numerous allies and



▲ **LCDR Gene Malveaux** coordinates the takeoff of an SH-60B *Seahawk* assigned to Light Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL) 51 during routine flight quarters aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens* (CG 63).

Photo by PH3 Lowell Whitman

coalition partners, as well as other U.S. military forces.

The seven aircraft carriers involved in *Summer Pulse '04* included: the Norfolk-based USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) CSG, now home, and the San Diego-based USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) CSG,

currently deployed. The Yokosuka, Japan-based USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) and the Mayport, Fla.-based USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) CSG, which is currently on its scheduled overseas deployment, participated in various exercises enroute to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation *Iraqi Freedom*.



▲ **AW2 Bryan Branco** stands a force protection watch from an SH-60 *Seahawk* helicopter assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 7, embarked aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75).

Photo by PHAA Jay Pugh



Photo by PHAN Konstandinos Goumenid

▼ **ABH2 Rodney Larkins** lands an Argentinian SA-316 *Alouette III* helicopter containing distinguished visitors on the flight deck of the carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76).



▲ **Crew members** stand a force protection watch at one of the .50-caliber machine gun mounts aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63). *Kitty Hawk* departed Yokosuka, Japan, to participate in *Summer Pulse '04*.

Photo By PH3 Lamel J. Hinton

▼ **A “Shooter” launches** an F/A-18 *Hornet* assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 83 off the flight deck of USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

Photo by Ph3 Joshua Karsten



The Norfolk-based USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) CSG conducted a scheduled training exercise followed by overseas pulse operations with the Norfolk-based USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) CSG. USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) conducted operations in the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command theaters during the ship’s inter-fleet transfer from Norfolk to her Pacific Fleet homeport of San Diego.

The submarine force also provided a significant portion of the Navy’s credible combat force during *Summer Pulse '04*. Ten submarines deployed in four areas of responsibility, supporting CSGs, as well as other operations and exercises in accordance with the FRP.

The near-simultaneous deployment of seven CSGs provided the Navy and the joint combatant commanders the opportunity to exercise the FRP while maintaining the ability to respond to crises around the globe. It also served to enhance regional security and relationships, meet combatant commander requirements including forward presence, and demonstrate a commitment to allies and coalition partners.

“We are touching almost every continent and hitting all of the major oceans and seas,” said CAPT Martin Erdossy, commanding officer, USS *George Washington* (CVN 73). “We’re proud to be a part of the world’s greatest Navy, and the fact that we can put aircraft carriers in so many different places is a great testimony to how great we really are.”

This story was assembled from various Navy News stories.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200409/feature_1/

Making a Difference

Sailors Volunteer to Help Children During *Cobra Gold '04*

On a hot day in Thailand, a 5-year-old girl wakes up from her nap at the Camillian Social Center, a relief center for parents and their children who are infected with HIV or AIDS. A disheartening stare settles in her round dark eyes, as she anticipates another day of despair and hopelessness. Her frazzled ponytails fall lifelessly down her shoulders as she finally rises.

◀ **Nearly 40 children reside** at the Camillian Social Center. Some of the kids have to attend school in secrecy because of the paranoia that surrounds HIV.

When the children are awake, their chaperone lines them up to take them outside to play. The little girl listlessly waits in line, watching the other children disappear into the sunlight beyond the doorway. As her tiny feet shuffle forward, she hears a commotion in the courtyard, and her huge eyes quickly lose their vacant stare.

When it's her turn to cross the threshold, she sees a tall, smiling man in a khaki uniform standing with a toy in his hand.

▼ **Master Chief Tom Howard**, command master chief, Amphibious Group 1/CTF-76 shares a moment with a patient at the Camillian Social Center. During *Cobra Gold '04*, Sailors donated toys to the 35 children who live at the center.

Her eyes beam with happiness as she lunges toward the Sailor. As he catches her in his arms, he knows the next few hours he dedicates to her will make a difference.

During *Cobra Gold '04* in Thailand, many U.S. Sailors took time off from the grueling training schedule to volunteer their time—to make a difference. Whether stopping by to donate toys and visit underprivileged children or working vigorously in the scorching heat to repair a local school, these Sailors were ambassadors for America.

Several Sailors visited the Camillian Center, located in Rayong about 70 miles south of Bangkok. Some took time off from the shore, field and command post exercises ashore, while others visited during port

calls in Pattaya near Bangkok.

More than 50 patients reside within the Camillian Center's white walls that keep them separated in obscurity from the rest of Rayong. But the most intriguing stories behind these walls are in the eyes of the 35 children who call the center home.

The children range in age from four to 17. Many of the children arrived at the center with their mothers, but unfortunately, most of these families do not stay together very long.

"Thirty of the children here are orphans, and the other five will be soon," said Paddy Phelan, a coordinator at the center. "The center began as a place for mothers and their children, but we quickly learned that

the mothers don't last very long," Phelan added with a cheerless smile that hides the heartbreak of watching so many lives lost over the years. "But we keep them together as long as we can."

According to Phelan, after the parents die, most of the kids have no other family to look out for them. They don't have much to look forward to each day, so when Sailors come by to visit them, it really means a lot.

"They love visitors," said Phelan. "When the Sailors come here, it makes them really happy. It takes their minds off their problems."

Their joy is evident the moment the Sailors step in the courtyard. The children race to them, screaming with excitement, and engulfing them with hugs and smiles.

Some of the Sailors had reservations about visiting an HIV center, but seeing how happy the children were quelled all their fears.

"It was scary at first, but then when you see their smiles—it was just awesome," said Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class Brittany Price, Naval Security Group Activity Yokosuka, Japan. "Just knowing we did something to make them smile was great."

Sailors got the same reaction during their visits to the Pattaya Orphanage. The orphanage, a 40-minute drive north of

Rayong in Pattaya City, is home to more than 200 children ranging in age from just a few days to 18 years old. Nearly 75 children greeted the Sailors—holding their hands as they toured the orphanage.

In contrast to the Camillian Center, the children here have a more positive future ahead of them. Some even go on to attend college while living at the orphanage. They looked at the Sailors differently—as role models to some extent. "I like the tall man in the brown uniform," said Man, an 11-year-old at the orphanage speaking with the help of a translator. "I want to wear that one day."

"They love to see people in uniform," said Liz Scott, a coordinator at the orphanage. "For them, a uniform represents a position of respect. A Sailor is seen as someone who has achieved something in life, so it gives them something to strive for in the future."

While Sailors made several trips to Pattaya Orphanage and the Camillian Center during the two weeks of *Cobra Gold*, another group was busy about a month before the exercise officially began.

Five Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 of Port Hueneme, Calif., put in eight- to 12-hour days in 90-degree plus temperatures in Rayong, rehabbing Ban Kao Wangman School.

◀ **Students at Ban Kao Wangman** were all smiles when they returned to school. "Hopefully, they'll remember this interaction with Americans and they'll have a very positive outlook on how we've extended a helping hand," said RADM Gary R. Jones, commander, Amphibious Group 1/Task Force 76.

▼ **At the Camillian Social Center**, those who are sick but are still capable of working are encouraged to care for others and help run the center. Here, a patient also serves as a volunteer.





◀ **Ban Kao Wangman** looked more like an abandoned building in the children's absence while the Sailors made renovations to the school.

▼ **The Pattaya Orphanage** was founded in 1970. Today it houses more than 200 children, and is home to newborn babies, toddlers, school children and those studying at universities. During *Cobra Gold '04*, many Sailors took time out from their training to visit the orphanage.





They arrived at the school in April to repair the school's drainage system and roofing over the cafeteria and playground. They rebuilt the school's storage building and made other repairs before finally painting the building.

According to Construction Electrician 1st Class (SCW) Mick Langley, working 12-hour days in the scorching heat did not deter the Seabees. They knew they had a job to do, and in the end, they were doing it for themselves just as much as they were doing it for the children.

"This is the part of my job I really enjoy doing," said Langley. "We do a lot of construction for the Navy on Navy bases, and that's all good work and you see an end result. But here, you see an end result that is affecting the kids."

After nearly a month of work, the Sailors

finally saw how much the children appreciated the end result. The grinding, hammering and banging heard around the schoolyard was replaced with sounds of children laughing and playing.

The children engulfed the Sailors with handshakes and "Thank yous." "This is what it is all about," said Utilitiesman 2nd Class Adam Townsend. "When you see them out here having fun and appreciating everything you have done, there is no feeling like it. It's a wonderful feeling to know we've made a difference."

Back at the Camillian Center, the day comes to an end and the children get ready for bed. The little girl—eyes still twinkling—hurriedly crawls into her bed. She lies there, with her tiny arms wrapped around a small brown teddy bear, listening to the excited whispers of the other children.

▲ **Sailors visiting the Camillian Center** left feeling they had made a difference. "Seeing them smile was just awesome. Just knowing we did something to bring a smile to their faces is great," said CTT2 Brittany Price.

Then she smiles, she closes her eyes tight and drifts off to dreamland. **SE**

Dickson and Frantom are photojournalists assigned to All Hands.

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Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200408/feature_2/



◀ **SW1 Jimmy Pope and PO1 Narong Prasis** from the Royal Thai Navy secure monkey bars in the playground at Ban Kao Wangman school. Seabees and Thai Sailors worked side-by-side for nearly a month making repairs at the school.

▼ **Head Master Kamnuan Soontornprasert** and the students at Ban Kao Wangman wave goodbye to the Seabees one final time. "I really think they appreciate what we did here," said UT2 Adam Townsend. "It's been tough, but it was worth it."



Charming the Cobra

U.S. and Thailand
Tackle Cobra Gold '04

Story by JO1(SW) Hendrick L. Dickson,
photos by PH3 Todd Frantom

◀ **The cobra is one** of the most venomous snakes in the world, and they are a favorite of snake charmers, as they respond well to visual cues and quickly assume their full hood defensive posture.

The sun beams intensely on the golden beach sand, and a trail of footprints lead to an abandoned building hidden deep in the bush offshore. A camouflaged explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team, rifles at the ready, maneuvers discreetly around palm trees, making their way to the building. They cautiously enter, where they find explosives are rigged to go off at any moment. After a quick sweep of the building to make sure all is secure, they turn their attention to the bomb.

A sharp ticking sound from the device echoes off the rickety walls, as they carefully study it trying to figure out a way to disarm it. After locating the triggering mechanism, the team leader cautiously disengages the mechanism, disarming the bomb. “Secure from event two,” a voice abruptly barks over a radio.

The team executed the training evolution flawlessly, as if they had been working together forever, but a closer look reveals something different. This was not a typical

EOD team that spends countless hours—five days a week—training on scenarios like this one. This was a diverse team of American and Thai Sailors, brought together for only two weeks to continue a more than 20-year tradition of building interoperability between two longtime allies. Welcome to *Cobra Gold* ‘04.

Designed to improve combat readiness and interoperability between the United States and its Asian allies, *Cobra Gold* is an annual military exercise led by U.S. and Thai

▼ **Parachutists touch down** safely under the watchful eye of Buddha during the EOD Buddha Land Jump.



▲ **The key to survival** in the jungle is identifying the dangers and knowing what to do to combat them. Even a scorpion can be docile if handled carefully.

► **U.S., Thai and Singaporean** Sailors worked together to monitor the events of a mock peacekeeping scenario. Here YN2 Andre L. Coffee, from CTF 76, and Lt. Kakanate Parnsri (RTN) keep an eye on message traffic.



militaries in Thailand. This year, Singapore, Mongolia and the Republic of the Philippines joined the two host nations.

What started as a small exercise between the U.S. and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) 23 years ago has become one of the largest exercises involving U.S. forces in the Pacific Command. More than 18,000 troops from the five countries participated in *Cobra Gold '04*.

“Over the years, the Thais have been such wonderful allies and coalition partners with us,” said RADM Gary R. Jones, commander, Amphibious Force U.S. 7th Fleet/ Task Force 76. “Even today, in both Afghanistan and Iraq, Thai soldiers are serving side-by-side with coalition forces in both of those countries. So *Cobra Gold* has always been a wonderful opportunity for both of our nations, both of our navies, both of our militaries to operate together.”

This year’s exercise focused on peace enforcement, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The Sailors trained together in numerous command post and field exercises.

Nowhere was this joint training atmosphere more present than the Command Post Exercise (CPX) at Utapah Naval Base. In a dark room illuminated only by the light from two huge TV screens and computer monitors, U.S., Thai and Singaporean Sailors formed a coalition team to keep peace between two fictional rival countries.

The exercise was set up so that all three nations provided a watchstander at each watch station. They worked together, monitoring communications, sea and surface operations and collecting intelligence information.

“It gives you a broader understanding of the difficulties there are working in a joint environment,” said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW) Karen B. Jasper, commander, Task Force-76 Okinawa, Japan. “It lets you see the steps you would have to take to accommodate language barriers and technology differences.”

The differences didn’t stop there. The Sailors gained valuable insight from



▲ **During a crash course** on jungle survival techniques, Sailors and Marines learn everything from which plants and insects are a good source of food to how cobra’s blood can be a suitable substitute for water.



◀ **HMC Joseph Burds finds** out jungle survival training with the Thai Marines can be a brow-raising experience as he receives a freshly-made snakeskin headband.

▼ **An intense staredown** ensues when Thai Marine Master Sgt. Pranom Yodrak attempts to show U.S. Sailors and Marines how to charm a cobra.



◀ **The only difference** between a secure and nonsecure building is a sailor and his rifle. This Thai Explosive Ordnance Disposal member stands guard during an insert and disposal training exercise.

▼ **Sailors scope out** their surroundings to make sure the beach is secure during a helo casting insertion exercise.



◀ **Sailors attempt to hurdle** the language barrier as they discuss their next move. Overcoming this obstacle was a major factor in the success of training evolutions.

▼ **Regardless of** what language they spoke, a yell before a jump motivated everyone and developed camaraderie between the combined Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams.

watching how their counterparts approached each situation.

“It’s always interesting to sit down with officers and enlisted members from other countries, and find out how they would do things,” said LT Miaja Fenell, CPX coordinator. “We see the scenario and we could be thinking one way, but then our partners will step in and offer a different way of doing things. It’s been a learning experience on both sides.”

In contrast to the stoic atmosphere at the command post headquarters, the training atmosphere about 30 miles east at Tungpung Bay was a bit more hair-raising, as the Thai Recon Marines taught U.S. Sailors and Marines the secrets of surviving in the jungle.

Jungle trees and bushes softened the intense sun, as only pockets of light were able to maneuver through the leaves and branches. But even with sunlight held at bay, the air was still hot and humid, and it could be seen from the sweat on the Sailors’ and Marines’ faces. Or maybe it wasn’t the heat making them perspire. Maybe it was the shock of watching their instructor chow down on some of the creepiest insects in the jungle, as they learned how to survive when there is no food and water around.



“Talk about ‘Fear Factor,’” one Sailor said while he watched a Marine chow down on one of the creepy, eight-legged critters. Plants and bugs were the special of the day, and served as a suitable substitute for food and water.

But if eating bugs and a few wild leaves reminded him of “Fear Factor,” then what he saw next had to be a combination of that popular reality show mixed with a slice of “The Crocodile Hunter.”

The gasps could be heard throughout

the jungle as the instructor crept slowly behind a cobra and grabbed it by its tail. After dangling the snake by its tail, demonstrating how vulnerable it was when handled properly, he killed it, skinned it and treated the Sailors and Marines to lunch. It was not long before the Sailors and Marines lined up to practice their newfound snake-handling skills.

As eerie as eating snakes and bugs seemed, many of the Sailors agreed that what they learned about jungle survival training would help them if they were ever in that situation.

“I was a little hesitant at first, but I had a lot of fun in the end,” said Hospital Corpsman Ricky L. Lapraim with the 2nd/3rd Marine Corps Division in Hawaii. “I feel like I’m very suited for surviving in the jungle in case I’m lost or in an emergency situation.”

Back at Utapaho RTN EOD base, only a couple of miles from command post headquarters, the scene looked like a combat staging area, with huge green tents and U.S. and Thai EOD team members walking around with camouflaged faces, planning their next mission.

Chief Gunner’s Mate (EOD/SW/FFJM) Kenneth C. Norman of EOD Mobile Unit 5 homeported in Guam, knows how critical the role his team and the RTN EOD team play in maintaining security and stability in the Asian-Pacific theater. When mines or explosives are involved, EOD is the first to respond to secure the beach for the troops.

“Our objective is enabling access in the Pacific,” said Norman. “We clear the way for the good guys, so they can get to the beach and fight the enemy.”

According to Norman, this mission requires EOD to insert in a variety of ways. During *Cobra Gold ’04*, all of these mobility skills—from jumping out of helicopters hundreds of yards offshore and swimming in to secure the beach during helo casting insertion exercises, to parachuting in from thousands of feet up during the Buddha Land jump, were put to the test.

“This has been a very successful exercise,” said Norman. “We have been able to come

here and train with the Thais on almost everything we are required to do in a crisis situation. To know we can come here and overcome all the language barriers and communications obstacles and operate with an EOD team from another country safely is a huge accomplishment.”

“Every year, we [make] the footprint a little bit bigger and get more and more training out of it, and next year we’ll do the same.”

For the past 23 years, the United States and Thailand have taken steps to build an alliance that promotes interoperability, cooperation, stability and security in the Pacific region. And with the United States and its allies deeply entrenched in the worldwide war on terrorism, this kind of cooperation between nations is vital to everyone’s security.

After the training scenario is complete, the EOD team cools off under a shaded area surrounded by palm trees, protected from the stinging heat of the sun. They refresh themselves with bottled water while discussing the past event. They listen to each other, carefully incorporating hand signals and head nods, reaffirming they understand each other.

Suddenly, their conversation is broken by the bark of the radio, “Prepare for the next event.” It only takes seconds for them to grab their rifles, cover their footprints and dash toward the beach to begin their next challenge. **SH**

Dickson and Frantom are photojournalists assigned to All Hands.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200409/feature_3/

► **A member of** the Royal Thai Navy’s Recon Marines protects a perimeter during an insertion exercise.



► **When you don't have water** piped into your home, the water still has to come from somewhere. Hand pumps, natural springs and bottled water brought by wheel barrow are the only answers for Croatian farmers until the pipes are pressurized.

Building Paradise

Slonj (Sla-loon), Croatia, is almost paradise.

Miles away from the nearest factory, its crisp, clean air carries the smells any farmland should. Cattle graze and crops sprout on lush, green hills that are as easygoing as the people who live there. Sparkling clear water flows just as gently through their hillsides. Only it doesn't flow into anyone's house ... yet.

Story and photos by JO1(SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky



◀ **EO3 John Ladiski** liked working on the water line project because of who it helped. "Bringing water to these people is a wonderful thing," he added.

"Technology is very slow here," said Croatian Army Lt. Tomislav Fabijancic, assistant commander for *Adriatic PHIBLEX AP-04-02*, the official name of the Partnership for Peace (PFP) exercise designed to homogenize allied military engineering efforts.

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, along with military engineers from Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Turkey and Croatia, teamed up to help bring the farmers of Slonj and 15 other villages what most Americans consider an afterthought—running water.

"The residents of Slonj are excited about getting the water," said Water Line Project Crew 2 leader and fellow Croatian, Dubravko Gorsic.

According to the plan, the engineers had two months to place 10 kilometers of water pipe through rural Slonj. Which, when you've waited hundreds of years to catch up with the rest of the industrialized world, seems like mere seconds.

But as any veteran military logistician will tell you, even the best-laid plans never survive the first day. The water line project was no different.

As with any multinational project, there were plenty of opportunities for complex multicultural issues to impede progress. Every country had their own language, uniforms, vehicles and ideas about the best

way to put pipe into the Croatian heartland. Most problems, like language barriers, worked themselves out, thanks to simple human ingenuity.

"Most of us didn't understand a word the other was saying," said Builder 2nd Class Dru Edgcomb. "So we used a lot of hand signals. We're all engineers, so we understood each other."

Ironically, it was the simplest thing—rocks—that gave the engineers the biggest headache.

With an initial estimate of only 20 percent rock expected to occasionally ping their shovels, the Seabees thought digging 10 kilometers of six-foot-deep trenching would be easy.

A week of actual digging proved otherwise, as the Seabees discovered more than 75 percent of the pipe's charted path was nothing but gray, chalky, "stubborn-as-a-mule" rock.

"Once the snow melted away, we thought we were home free," said BU2 Levi Chambers. "But everywhere we dug, there were rocks—big ones. It's been the only thing that's really slowed us down."

So in typical Seabee "Can-Do" fashion, they traded in their shovels for jackhammers. If there was a rock the Seabees couldn't budge, break or coax out of its home, they called in the contracted civilian Croatian blasters. ***Ka-BOOM!*** The Seabees were

▲ **In typical Seabee fashion**, NMCB 74's detachment for training had to improve their own quarters (shown here) while working on the water line project in Croatia. When the Seabees arrived in Croatia, there were only three showers for more than 60 people. So the Seabees built a brand new bathroom and shower facility that easily handled showers for the entire international project.

back in business.

The ability to adapt and overcome obstacles turned out to be the most impressive thing the Americans showcased during the water line project.

"American logistics are perfect," said water line project commander, Croatian Army Engineer Lt. Nenad Santini. "Your chain of command makes things happen a lot faster than ours does. If your guys needed a truck, all it took was a phone call. With us, I had to plan to need the truck a week ahead of time, fill out paperwork and hope I got it," Santini added.

Seabees on every level discovered that America's reputation for technical and managerial expertise was recognized internationally.


"There was a Bulgarian officer here, but he let our 1st class petty officer run the show," said Edgcomb.

Being well-respected on the job site wasn't the only benefit the Seabees reaped from being in Croatia. After all, they were



▲ **One of the advantages** of doing an international job, like the water line project in Croatia, is the opportunity to work with foreign workers and foreign equipment. The Seabees were impressed with the flexibility and light weight of the European-made water pipe.

◀ **Looking like something from a fairy tale**, the town of Slonj, Croatia, is a tourist destination for Europeans, thanks to the town's Old World feel and beautiful buildings.



◀ **UT2 John Olson** takes a minute to relax in the corner of what was once a classroom in an abandoned grade school near Water Line Project Site II. Olson, a father himself, found the bullet-ridden building from the Balkan Conflict during the 1990s disturbing. "I could almost hear the children playing here," he said.



► **The farmers outside of Slonj, Croatia,** are slow to change their traditional methods for farming. But running water will be a welcome addition in their lives.

▼ **Everyone involved with the project** was eager to cooperate, except for the countryside itself. A majority of the work done to install the pipeline went to removing massive amounts of rock that littered the farmland.



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◀ **BU3 Dan Burks,** assigned to Reserve Unit NMCRC Toledo, Ohio, NMCB 26, Det. 12, helps carry the ultra-lite water pipe through the Croatia countryside.

working in paradise.

Slonj is a town full of sweet little old ladies that remind most Seabees of their grandmothers. The hand-made, stone-oven-baked pizza on every street corner tastes as good as any mass-produced pie delivered back in the states. Throw in the fact that one American dollar fetched seven Croatia Kuna, and it was easy to see why none of the Seabees complained about being in Croatia.

“Bringing water to the Croatians is a great thing,” said BU1 Mario Solares. “It’s easy to sweat for these people, because they’re so nice.”

But Solares stopped short of saying the Seabees’ mission was perfect.

Engineering plans dictate that the entire

water line had to be completed before any of the 6,000 Croatians could trade in their five-mile walks for water from the town well for an in-house faucet. And, although the Seabees will see every inch of pipe into the ground, they are scheduled to be drinking water from their own American faucets back in Mississippi long before the Croatian government finally charges the water line.

“It would have been nice if we could have fully changed each section of pipe as we went,” he said. “It’s disappointing to know we won’t be here to see their happiness.”

For the Seabees, that would be paradise. **SH**

Pinsky is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200408/feature_4/



▲ **The wide-open terrain** around Slonj, Croatia, meant the Seabees had to move a lot of Sailors, equipment and dirt every day to complete the 10-kilometer water line project.

▼ **Building humanitarian projects** like the water line in Croatia is all in a day’s work for Seabees, who pride themselves on helping those who cannot help themselves.



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BUILDING PARADISE

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A CALL FROM ABOVE

Story by JO2 Charles L. Ludwig, photo by PHAN Joan Kretschmer

Standing in his perch high above the flight deck of USS *George Washington* (CVN 73), Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Rene Reyna plays a huge part in his fellow Sailors' day-to-day routine, even if they don't realize it.

As a bos'n aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Reyna's voice — er, his pipe's whistle — is heard throughout the day, sending out orders and commands to crew members over the ship's 1MC.

All day, it's Reyna, along with others in his division, signaling the start of every major aspect of the carrier's day — including such routines as reveille, meals and sweepers.

And while the task may sound as effortless as the chirps and whistles coming from the ship's bridge, reality tells a different story. A typical boatswain's mate has at least a dozen calls to learn, while perfecting a flawless delivery of the sometimes-intricate calls.

It's easy to see why. The slightest misstep when making a signal could have service members heading to their racks instead of breaking out brooms and dustpans for sweepers — just the type of chaos that is less than desirable on a ship.

But despite the numerous calls and finicky nature of the task, those boatswain's mates who love the job can easily point out the time-honored aspect of what they do.

The people performing the daily task calls are carrying out one of the Navy's oldest customs, dating back to even before the birth of our nation.

That's a fact Reyna holds dear.

"I'm just proud to keep one of the Navy's oldest traditions going," he said. ❧

Ludwig is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands and Kretschmer is an airman assigned to USS George Washington (CVN 73).

Focus on.
Service

Eye on the Fleet

Eye on the Fleet is a monthly photo feature sponsored by the Chief of Information Navy Visual News Service. We are looking for **high impact**, quality photography from **Sailors** in the fleet to showcase the American Sailor in **action**.

► AN Kevin Tatum wipes Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) off of his face following a test of the flight deck AFFF sprinkler system aboard USS *Peleliu* (LHA 5). The amphibious assault ship is currently under way conducting a series of tests to prepare for an upcoming visit by the Board of Inspection and Survey.

Photo by PH2 Joshua Pritelkel



▼ Search and Rescue swimmers sit in an MH-60S *Knighthawk* helicopter during a vertical replenishment to transfer ammunition between USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) and USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

Photo by PH3 Chris Weibull



► The crew of USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) posted a homemade sign reading "North Pole" after surfacing on the polar ice cap. *Hampton* and the Royal Navy *Trafalgar*-class attack submarine HMS *Tireless* (SS 8) took part in *ICEX '04*, a combined operational exercise beneath the polar ice cap.

Photo by JOC Kevin Elliott



▼ LTJG Justin Hane, left, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, trains with instructors in the 2F-87 Operational Flight Trainer, a full motion P-3C *Orion* aircraft flight simulator, at the Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2 Training Facility. Air crew personnel from VP-4 and other Hawaii-based P-3C squadrons routinely train at the facility to maintain mission readiness.

Photo by PH1 William Goodwin



► ST3 Michael Freer stands watch next to a 25mm cannon aboard USS *Bulkeley* (DDG 84) in the Persian Gulf while participating in exercises aimed at fighting the global war on terrorism.

Photo by PH1 Brian Aho



To be considered, forward your **high resolution (5"x 7" at 300 dpi) images** with full credit and cutline information, including **full name, rank and duty station**. Name all identifiable people within the photo and include important information about what is happening, where the photo was taken and the date. Commands with digital photo capability can send attached .jpg files to: navyvisualnews@navy.mil

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Eye on the Fleet

► SM3 Ricky Berenguer has the honor of raising the National Ensign aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) on her 43rd birthday. The conventional aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk* is America's oldest active warship, having been commissioned April 29, 1961. *Kitty Hawk* is the world's only aircraft carrier forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by PHAN Bo Flannigan



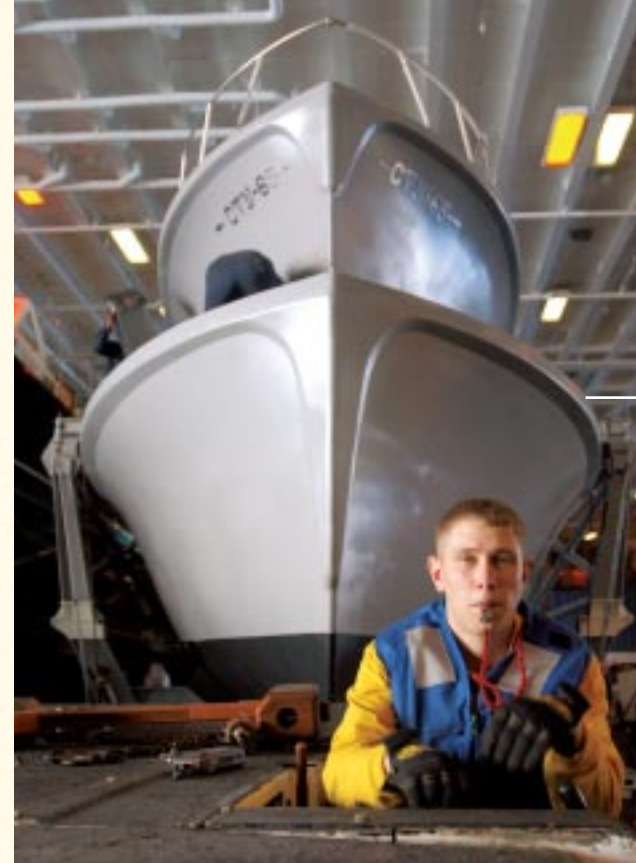
◀ An F/A-18C *Hornet* assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 94 flies past the island of USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) after receiving a "wave off" just prior to landing.

Photo by PHAN Chris Valdez



◀ AN Adam High hauls a motor whaleboat and the Captain's Gig in the hangar bay aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) using a specially designed tow tractor for use on Navy ships. These boats are used to transfer the ship's commanding officer and crew from ship to shore.

Photo by PHAN Milosz Reterski



▼ Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 place sandbags on top of a fortified bunker in Central Iraq.

Photo by PH2 Eric Powell



◀ The guided-missile cruiser USS *Lake Erie* (CG 70) makes her way up the Willamette River en route to the 97th Annual Portland Rose Festival.

Photo by PH1 Michael Larson



Eye on History

Eye on History is a monthly photo feature sponsored by the Naval Historical Center.

For more photos pertaining to naval history, go to www.history.navy.mil.



▲ **1966**

With warplanes crowding her flight deck, the attack aircraft carrier USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42) steams at high speed in the Gulf of Tonkin in the company of the attack carrier USS *Intrepid* (CVA 11). Along with a third "on the line" attack carrier at Yankee Station, they provided more than half of the entire U.S. air strikes against North Vietnamese military targets.

◀ **1943**

A torpedo is brought topside aboard USS *Fulton* (AS 11).



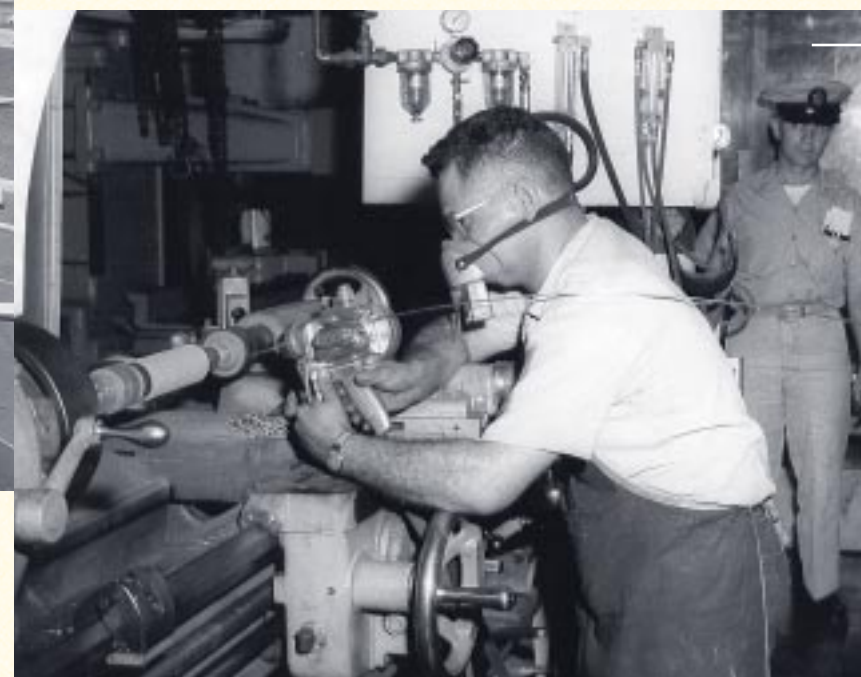
1945 ▶

Attitudes displayed by the members of a Navy bomber squadron vary from bored and nonchalant to unrestrained eagerness as they are briefed aboard their carrier before the opening strike of the two-day attack on Tokyo.



◀ **1964**

MR1 Seguro D. Gill uses a metal sprayer to build up worn metal while MRC Irving Backus watches the operation.



1968 ▶

A large crowd greeted the visiting destroyer tender USS *Frontier* (AD 25) when she arrived in Hilo, Hawaii, for a two-day recreational visit. Among those on hand, were a group of Hawaiian dancers who sang and performed native dances.



U.S. Navy Photos Courtesy of
the Naval Historical Center

The Lost Meaning of ‘Thank You’

Story by JO1(SW) Hendrick L. Dickson

When my chief called me and asked if I wanted to go to Thailand to cover *Cobra Gold '04*, I really wanted to tell him, “No!” I actually left him hanging on the phone while excuses raced through my head. But you’ll never get ahead in the Navy if you turn down assignments, so I replied in my most excited voice, “Yeah! I can do it.”

And so I began to motivate myself to do a job for which I really had no passion. To my surprise, it wasn’t hard. It had been more than two years since my last deployment, and I never got to do a WESTPAC. The opportunity to see a different culture became very inviting—at least that’s what I managed to convince myself.

When I stepped off the plane in Bangkok, all of my self-motivational tactics abandoned me. I realized something I didn’t plan for—“It’s hot in Thailand!”

With that said, I was back at square one, on a job I really had no passion for—it’s funny how 90-plus degree temperatures at 12 a.m. will bring you back to reality.

Around the second day, I decided to resort back to the whole interesting culture thing. And what better way to learn a new culture than to get familiar with the language.

I asked a bellhop in the hotel lobby how to say ‘Thank you’ in Thai. ‘*Khawp khun khrap*’, (pronounced Cop - Coon - Cop) he replied with a smile. OK. It sounded easy enough. ‘*Khawp khun khrap*’, I repeated. ‘*Khawp khun khrap*’, he replied again, but this time he held his hands, palms together, in a praying manner and bowed his head slightly. ‘*Khawp khun khrap*’, I repeated, ignoring the whole head-bowing thing. After all, I’m a grown man, I can’t be going around bowing to everybody. ‘*Khawp khun khrap*.’ I couldn’t wait to try it.

The next day was even hotter. It was 7 a.m., it felt like 100 degrees and I was sweating like “a stuffed pig.” I really needed

a pick-me-up. I decided to try the “thank you” thing at breakfast.

When the waitress came to remove our plates, I thanked her with a “*Khawp khun khrap*.” She paused. It worried me for a second. I thought the bellhop played a joke on me.

The waitress put the plates back on the table, looked at me with a huge smile, put her palms together in a praying manner, bowed her head slightly and said, “*Khawp khun kha*.” The smile on her face was so huge I could see it as she walked away.

She was clearly amused by my attempt to show my gratitude in her language and I was humbled by her appreciation.

Now you’re probably thinking, “What’s the big deal? We say ‘Thank you’ all the time in America.” But when we say it, do we really mean it, or do we say it because it’s the thing to do? When was the last time someone told you ‘Thank you,’ and you walked away thinking, ‘Wow, they really meant that.’

By no means am I saying we should go around bowing to each other. But maybe taking time to really acknowledge the person you’re saying it to with a smile and a sincere ‘Thank you,’ rather than the usual ‘Thank you’ because it’s what we

do, will make you and that person feel better.

For the rest of my time in Thailand, I made it a point to say ‘*Khawp khun khrap*’ whenever the opportunity presented itself, and I got the same sincere response every time.

Of course, I’m no Thai language expert—I never did figure out ‘You’re Welcome.’ And my pronunciation was corrected several times. But no matter how much I brutalized their language, they appreciated my attempt. And seeing the smiles on their faces was all I needed to make it through the scorching heat in Thailand. ✎

Dickson is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Editor’s Note: When a woman says “Thank you” in Thai, it is pronounced Cop-Coon-Ca.



his Recruiter warned him it would be Tough.



But, he’s up to the challenge of being a...



... are you?

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

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